

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly having a strip width and a strip length, comprising:

a plurality of non-knitted metal clips disposed in a spaced pattern and being a continuous ~~pre-form~~ strand of wire transversely looped back and forth across the strip width in a plurality of adjacent passes to form a first leg, a bend, second leg and a longitudinally running center line, wherein said second leg of each pass also forms said first leg of the clip formed in the next pass, said adjacent passes of wire having voids located therebetween, said spaced pattern extending the strip length; said first and second legs of said clip of the continuous ~~pre-form~~ strand of wire form a straight line inwardly tapered V-shaped junction at said bend; and

at least one longitudinal member, adhesively connected to said continuous ~~pre-form~~ strand of wire maintaining said spaced pattern of said clips.

2. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising:

filler material disposed in said voids.

3. (Previously Amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 2, further comprising:

a cover layer disposed about the plurality of metal clips, the at least one longitudinal member and the filler material.

4. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein each of said clips has a circular cross-section.

5. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein each of said clips has a polygonal cross-section.

6. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein each of said clips has an oval cross-section.

7. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 3, further comprising:

a sealing element connected to said cover layer.

8. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said laminate strip has a U-shaped profile.

9. (Original) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 3, wherein said strip has a U-shaped profile with two legs; said sealing element being connected to one of said two legs.

10. (Previously amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one longitudinal member is a plurality of longitudinal members made of the same material.

11. (Previously amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said at least one longitudinal member is a plurality of longitudinal members made of different materials.

12. (Previously amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein the at least one longitudinal member is made of a material selected from the group consisting of: elastomeric rubber, thermoplastic, high durometer rubber, fiberglass strand, laminated rubber, woven laminate, non-woven laminate and knitted laminate and combinations thereof.

13. (Previously Amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said first and second legs of said clip are substantially parallel along the entire strip length.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous pre-form strand of wire has a circular cross-sectional shape.

16. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous pre-form strand of wire has a square cross-sectional shape.

17. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous pre-form strand of wire has a rectangular cross-sectional shape.

18. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, wherein said continuous pre-form strand of wire has an oval cross-sectional shape.

19-32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 1, further comprising:

at least one mask layer adhered onto the continuous pre-form strand of wire.

34. (Previously presented) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 33, the wherein the at least one mask layer is selected from the group consisting of: elastomeric rubber, thermoplastic, high durometer rubber, fiberglass strand, laminated rubber, woven laminate, non-woven laminate and knitted laminate and combinations thereof.

35. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip assembly of Claim 33, wherein the at least one mask layer is adhered to the continuous pre-form strand of wire along the entire length of the laminate strip.

36. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip of Claim 33, wherein the at least one mask layer is two separate layers spaced apart from one another and respectively adhered to the continuous pre-form strand of wire.

37. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip of Claim 33, wherein the at least one mask layer is three separate layers spaced from one another and adhered to the continuous pre-form strand of wire.

38. (Currently amended) The reinforced flexible laminate strip of Claim 1, wherein the continuous pre-form strand of wire transversely looped back and forth across the strip width is asymmetrical about the longitudinally running center line.